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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TCHAK 39//

TO GDMPT/SDRG/PODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WHSR170

TCHAK 39

ARTICLE FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

SEN. STEVENSON'S OUTBURST

THE KINDEST THING TO BE SAID OF SEN. STEVENSON'S EXCORIATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THAT IT WAS SUPERBLY MISTIMED. IT CAME SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECRETARY DEPARTED ON HIS LATEST AND PERHAPS MOST DELICATE MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE ILLINOIS DEMOCRAT TAXED DR. KISSINGER WITH EGOCENTRICITY, DIPLOMATIC BRIBERY, DECEIT, IMMORALITY, AND CALAMITOUS MISJUDGMENT. HE SAID THE SECRETARY HAS SUFFERED AN EROSION OF CONFIDENCE THAT IS NEARLY IRREVERSIBLE. HE CHARGED DR. KISSINGER WITH POLICY FAILURES ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST.

THIS IS NOT THE FINEST BON VOYAGE A SECRETARY OF STATE EVER GOT BEFORE EMBARKING ON A DIFFICULT MISSION, AND IT CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE REALISTIC AND HELPFUL EFFORTS OF SEN. PERCY DURING AND AFTER A MIDEAST TRIP WHICH PRECEDED THE SECRETARY'S.

MR. PERCY PROVOKED THE ANGER OF ZIONISTS BY WARNING ISRAEL NOT TO COUNT ON FURTHER AMERICAN HELP IF IT SHOULD LAUNCH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST THE ARABS. HIS PURPOSE WAS TO COOL THE ISRAELI HAWKS AND ENHANCE ARAB CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES. SINCE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DISAVOWS ANY INTENTION OF A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE, IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THE SENATOR'S COMMENTS CAN DO ANYTHING BUT SIMPLIFY DR. KISSINGER'S TASK.

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

JANKA, SECFILE

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THE SECRETARY'S PATH WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE EASED BY MR. STEVENSON'S BUMBLING CONTRIBUTION. MR. STEVENSON DENOUNCED THE SECRETARY'S "SALAMI TACTICS" IN SEEKING A STEP-BY-STEP AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL ON THE SINAI PENINSULA. HE CALLED THE TACTIC FUTILE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT DR. KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN GAINING A TRUCE AFTER THE 1973 WAR WAS THE ONLY AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT IN A LONG TIME WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FUTILE. WITHIN MONTHS AFTER THE SECRETARY BEGAN HIS STEP-BY-STEP EFFORT, HE WAS HATED BY ALL SIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS A SINCERE FRIEND. IF EVER A TACTIC SUCCEEDED, DR. KISSINGER'S DID.

IT IS PLAIN TODAY THAT MOST SIDES ARE EAGER FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY. THE ALTERNATIVE IS A FREE-FOR-ALL GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WHERE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD SERVE AS A MISCHIEVOUS CO-CHAIRMAN.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE DELICATE STEPS TOWARD PEACE IS THE LAST THING DESIRED BY EITHER ISRAEL OR EGYPT. ISRAEL KNOWS THAT ANY CONFERENCE IN WHICH MOSCOW PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE CAN BODE ONLY ILL FOR HER. AND EGYPT HAS HAD ITS OWN BITTER EXPERIENCE WITH THE RUSSIANS. AT GRAVE RISK TO HIS FUTURE, PRESIDENT SADAT THREW THEIR TECHNICIANS OUT OF HIS COUNTRY, AND NOTHING KNOWN TO HAVE HAPPENED SINCE HAS HEIGHTENED HIS FONDNESS FOR MOSCOW.

WHO, THEN, WANTS TO SEE ABANDONED THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS WHICH HAS WORKED WELL IN THE PAST? SEN. STEVENSON AND THE SOVIET UNION, TO NAME TWO. WHO WANTS TO SEE A GENEVA CONFERENCE? SEN. STEVENSON AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SENATOR'S CHOICE OF A SOLUTION IS A MOST PECULIAR ONE, AND HIS TIMING IN RECOMMENDING IT AT AN HOUR WHEN BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE REACHING OUT TO DR. KISSINGER IS UNFORTUNATE IF NOT DOWNRIGHT CALAMITOUS.

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